

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6, 11-13, 20, and 21 have been amended. Claim 3 has been cancelled.
Claims 4, 5, 7-10, 14-19, and 22 remain in this application.

Applicant has amended TITLE of the application to make TITLE more descriptive.
Support for this amendment can be found on preambles of claims 1, 11, and 20 of the invention.
Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to more clearly identify a novel and non-obvious feature of the claimed invention. Specifically, the amended claim 1 is added the limitation “an insulating base comprising a recess” and “a conductive layer comprising a bottom portion with a bottom width accommodated in the recess and an upper portion with an upper width not accommodated in the recess”. Support for these limitations can be found on Figure 3 of the application. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Applicant has amended claim 2 to more clearly identify a novel and non-obvious feature of the claimed invention. Specifically, the limitation “the conductive layer further comprises a bottom portion with a bottom width and an upper portion with an upper width” is merged to amended claim 1 and thus cancelled. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Applicant has merged the limitation of original claim 3 to amended claim 1 and cancelled original claim 3. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Applicant has amended claim 6 to depend from amended claim 1. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Applicant has amended claim 11 to more clearly identify a novel and non-obvious feature of the claimed invention. Specifically, parts of original claim 12 or 13 are merged into the

amended claim 11 to add the limitation "the conductive layer further comprises an upper portion protruding from the recess". Support for this limitation can be found on page 9, lines 14-15 of the application and in Figure 3. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Applicant has merged the limitation of original claim 12 to amended claim 11 and cancelled original claim 12. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Applicant has amended claims 12 and 13 to more clearly identify a novel and non-obvious feature of the claimed invention. Specifically, the duplicate limitations are cancelled. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Applicant has amended claims 20 and 21 as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claim 21 stands objected to because of recitation of "The *method* as claimed in claim 20". Applicant respectfully amends the preamble as suggested by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 20-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections made by the Examiner for the reasons discussed below.

Claim 20 is amended as suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, it is Applicant's belief that this rejection is considered to be moot.

35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1, 4, 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(a) as being anticipated by applicants admitted prior art (AAPA). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections made by the Examiner for the reasons discussed below.

Amended claim recites “a ceramic cover overlying the insulating base and partially covering the conductive layer”. This unique feature is to provide higher resistance to plasma bombardment and recyclable performance. See page 11, lines 10-19 and page 12, lines 1-14.

AAPA teaches an insulating cover 112. Specifically, AAPA teaches the insulating cover 112 is usually quartz. See page 1, lines 14-15.

AAPA does not teach or suggest “a ceramic cover overlying the insulating base and partially covering the conductive layer”. Indeed, AAPA only teaches quartz cover 112. It is therefore Applicant’s belief that claim 1 is allowable over the cited references. Insofar as claims 2 and 4-10 depend from claim 1, it is Applicant’s belief that these claims are also allowable.

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 11-17 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Drage (U. S. Patent 4,793,975). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections made by the Examiner for the reasons discussed below.

None of the prior art references teach or suggest the conductive layer further comprises an upper portion protruding from the recess.

For example, AAPA teaches the conductive layer 120 embeds in the recess 115 of the insulating base 114, but fails to teach or suggest an upper portion protruding from the recess. In fact, AAPA teaches the conductive layer 120 completely embeds in the recess 115. See AAPA at Fig. 1.

Further, Drage teaches a lower electrode 10 comprising an annular depression 11 defining a central pedestal 12 for receiving a semiconductor wafer and a lower electrode 32 comprising similar structure with the lower electrode 10, and does not teach or suggest the central pedestal 12 is an “upper” portion. Note that the central pedestal 12 is as high as the ring 10, and central portion of the lower electrode 32 is as high as the edge thereof. See Drage at Col. 1, lines 25-27, Col. 3, line 16, and Figs. 1 and 3. Moreover, Drage does not teach or disclose any insulating base or the like embedded the lower electrode 10 or 32 therein.

Since Drage does not teach any insulating base or the like embedded the lower electrode 10 or 32 therein, Drage certainly does not teach or suggest any relation between the insulating base or recess thereof and the lower electrode 10 or 32. Thus, combination of AAPA and Drage do not teach or suggest “the conductive layer further comprises an *upper portion protruding from the recess*”.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or render obvious the feature of the above-discussed present invention as set forth in claim 11.

As neither AAPA nor Drage, when taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests “the conductive layer further comprises an *upper portion protruding from the recess*” of claim 11 as amended, it is therefore Applicant’s belief that claim 11 is allowable over the cited references. Insofar as claims 13-19 depend from claim 11, it is Applicant’s belief that these claims are also allowable.

Claims 20-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Drage (U. S. Patent 4,793,975) and Maki (U. S. Patent Publication 2005/0098120 A1). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections made by the Examiner for the reasons discussed below.

None of the prior art references teach or suggest “a titanium layer having a bottom portion embedded in the recess, and an upper portion, narrower than the bottom portion and the substrate, protruding from the recess”.

As described, combination of AAPA and Drage do not teach or suggest “the conductive layer further comprises an upper portion protruding from the recess”.

Maki discloses a titanium controlling section 27, but does not teach or disclose any insulating base or the like embedded the controlling section 27 therein.

Similarly, since Maki does not teach any insulating base or the like embedded the controlling section 27 therein, Maki certainly does not teach or suggest any relation between the insulating base or recess thereof and the controlling section 27. Thus, combination of AAPA, Drage, and Maki do not teach or suggest “a titanium layer having a bottom portion embedded in the recess, and an upper portion, narrower than the bottom portion and the substrate, protruding from the recess”.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or render obvious the feature of the above-discussed present invention as set forth in claim 20.

As neither AAPA, Drage, nor Maki, when taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests “a titanium layer having a bottom portion embedded in the recess, and an upper portion, narrower than the bottom portion and the substrate, protruding from the recess” of claim 20 as amended, it is therefore Applicant’s belief that claim 20 is allowable over the cited references. Insofar as claims 21-22 depend from claim 20, it is Applicant’s belief that these claims are also allowable.

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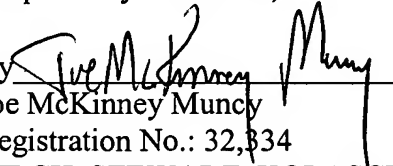
Docket No.: 0941-0752P

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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